

1. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~compound~~ for supplementing the concentration of a parent androgen in a subject *in vivo*, the parent androgen having a skeletal structure including a 17 position and the parent androgen further having a 17 β -hydroxy group comprising a 17 β -hydroxy hydrogen appended to the 17 position, the composition ~~compound~~ comprising:

a substrate having the skeletal structure of the parent androgen including a 17 position corresponding to the 17 position of the parent androgen; and

a promoiety comprising an alkoxymethyl ether appended to the 17 position of the substrate as a substitute for the 17 β -hydroxy hydrogen.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~compound~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein the substrate has the skeletal structure of testosterone.

3. (Withdrawn) A composition ~~compound~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein the substrate has the skeletal structure of nandrolone.

4. (Withdrawn) A composition ~~compound~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein the substrate has the skeletal structure of dihydrotestosterone.

5. (Withdrawn) A composition ~~compound~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein the substrate has the skeletal structure of dihydronandrolone.

6. (Withdrawn) A composition ~~compound~~ as set forth in claim 1, wherein the substrate has the skeletal structure of the parent androgen and wherein the parent androgen is selected from the group consisting of (5 α ,17 β)-17-hydroxy-androst-1-ene-3-one,

5 α -androst-1-ene-3 α ,17 β -diol, androst-4-ene-3 α ,17 β -diol, 5 α -androst-1-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol, androst-4-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the substrate has the skeletal structure of the parent androgen and wherein the parent androgen is selected from the group consisting of 5 α -19-nor-androst-1-ene-3 α ,17 β -diol, 19-nor-androst-4-ene-3 α ,17 β -diol, 5 α -19-nor-androst-1-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol, 19-nor-androst-4-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol and mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the alkoxymethyl ether has an alkyl chain length of less than 11.

9. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the alkoxymethyl ether has an alkoxy moiety consisting of methoxy.

10. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the alkoxymethyl ether has an alkoxy moiety selected from the group consisting of ethoxy, butoxy, isopropoxy, isobutoxy t-butoxy, valeroxy, hexanoxo, heptanoxo, octanoxo, nonanoxo, decanoxo, undecanoxo, cyclopentoxo, cyclopentylpropoxo, and mixtures thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises (5 α ,17 β)-17-methoxymethyloxyandrost-1-ene-3-ol.

12. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethyloxyandrost-4-ene-3-ol.

13. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises (5 α ,17 β)-17-methoxymethyloxyandrost-1-ene-3-one.

14. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethyloxyandrost-4-ene-3-one.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethyloxyandrost-1,4-diene-3-one.

16. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises (5 α ,17 β)-17-methoxymethylestra-1-ene-3-one.

17. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethylestr-4-ene-3-one.

18. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethylestr-1-ene-3-ol.

19. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethylestr-4-ene-3-ol.

20. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises (5 α -17 β)-17-methoxymethylandrostan-3-one.

21. (Withdrawn) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the composition compound comprises (5 α -17 β)-17-methoxymethylestran-3-one.

22. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, further including a carrier.

23. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a solid carrier.

24. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a liquid carrier.

25. (Currently Amended) A composition compound as set forth in claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a semi-solid carrier.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing concentration of a parent androgen in a subject *in vivo*, the parent androgen having a skeletal structure including a 17 position and the parent androgen further having a 17 β -hydroxy group comprising a 17 β -hydroxy hydrogen appended at the 17 position, the method comprising:

administering to the subject a composition compound comprising a substrate and a promoiety, the substrate having the skeletal structure of the parent androgen including a 17 position corresponding to the 17 position of the parent androgen, and the promoiety comprising an alkoxymethyl ether substituted at the 17 position of the substrate for the 17 β -hydroxy hydrogen; and

converting the composition compound *in vivo* into the parent androgen.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the subject is a human being and the *in vivo* conversion comprises converting the composition compound into the parent androgen *in vivo* within the human being.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ so that the substrate has the skeletal structure of testosterone.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ so that the substrate has the skeletal structure of nandrolone.

30. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ so that the substrate has the skeletal structure of dihydrotestosterone.

31. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ so that the substrate has the skeletal structure of dihydronandrolone.

32. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ so that the substrate has the skeletal structure of the parent androgen wherein the parent androgen is selected from the group consisting of (5 α ,17 β)-17-hydroxy-androst-1-ene-3-one,

5 α -androst-1-ene-3 α ,17 β -diol, androst-4-ene-3 α ,17 β -diol, 5 α -androst-1-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol, androst-4-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol, and mixtures thereof.

33. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ so that the substrate has the skeletal structure of at least one of 5 α -19-

nor-androst-1-ene-3 α , 17 β -diol, 19-nor-androst-4-ene-3 α -17 β -diol, 5 α -19-nor-androst-1-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol,19-nor-androst-4-ene-3 β ,17 β -diol.

34. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the alkoxymethyl ether has an alkyl chain length of less than 11.

35. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the alkoxymethyl ether has an alkoxy moiety consisting of methoxy.

36. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the alkoxymethyl ether has an alkoxy moiety selected from the group consisting of ethoxy, butoxy, isopropoxy, and isobutoxy, t-butoxy, valeroxy, hexanoxo, heptanoxo, octanoxo, nonanoxo, decanoxo, undecanoxo, cyclopentoxo, cyclopentylpropoxo, and mixtures thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the alkoxymethyl ether comprises methoxymethyl ether.

38. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethyloxyandrost-1-ene-3-ol.

39. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises (5 α ,17 β)-17-methoxymethyloxyandrost-4-ene-3-ol.

40. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises (5 α ,17 β)-17-methoxymethyloxyandrost-1-ene-3-one.

41. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises 17 β -methoxymethyloxyandrost-4-ene-3-one.

42. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises 17β -methoxymethoxyandrost-1,4-diene, 3-one.
43. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises $(5\alpha,17\beta)$ - 17β -methoxymethylestr-1-ene-3-one.
44. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises 17β -methoxymethylestr-4-ene-3-one.
45. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises 17β -methoxymethylestr-1-ene-3-ol.
46. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises 17β -methoxymethylestr-4-ene-3-ol.
47. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises $(5\alpha-17\beta)$ -17-methoxymethylandrostan-3-one.
48. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound comprises $(5\alpha-17\beta)$ -17-methoxymethylestran-3-one.
49. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound administration comprises peroral administration.
50. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound administration comprises pernasal administration.
51. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition compound administration comprises transdermal administration.

52. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises injecting the compound into the subject.

53. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the compound sublingually.

54. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises complexing the composition ~~compound~~ with an hydroxypropyl beta cyclodextrin.

55. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises complexing the composition ~~compound~~ with an hydroxypropyl gamma cyclodextrin.

56. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering a dosage periodically for a maximum of two weeks, followed by at least two weeks of non-administration to permit recovery of natural parent androgen production in the subject.

57. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ only in morning-time.

58. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ in an amount ranging from 1.0 mg to 500 mg per day.

59. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ in an amount ranging from 50 mg to 300 mg per day.

60. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration comprises administering the composition ~~compound~~ in an amount ranging from 50 mg to 100 mg per day.

61. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the composition ~~compound~~ administration further includes applying an enteric coating to the composition ~~compound~~ prior to administering the compound.